

July 2020

# The Trapline

United States Department of  
Agriculture  
Animal & Plant Health  
Inspection Service  
Wildlife Services



Cooperating with:  
Nevada  
Department of Agriculture  
Division of Animal Industry



[www.agri.nv.gov](http://www.agri.nv.gov)  
#775-851-4848

## Mission Statement

The Nevada Wildlife Services Program (WS) is a collaborative program involving the Nevada Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Industry (State) and the USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services Program (federal), whose mission is to protect agriculture, natural resources, property, and the human health and safety of the citizens of Nevada from the threat of injury, damage, or resource loss due to wildlife.

## Introduction

During July, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **4** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$86.2** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$4.5** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **164** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$3,716.00** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$32,022** in damage to agricultural resources and property. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During July, coyotes accounted for **\$26,208** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **132** coyotes were taken with a variety of management methods to resolve these and other ongoing complaints. WS routinely collects blood samples or oral swabs from species taken or handled during normal control activities for monitoring the presence of plague, avian influenza, and other diseases. In July, **6** samples were processed.

*The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the months of July, 2020.*

## Resource Protection State Office

During the reporting period, the State Office provided non-lethal recommendations to Nevadan's to assist in alleviating their conflicts with wildlife, particularly coyotes and raccoons. For more information about resolving conflicts with wildlife, please go to the following website: <http://agri.nv.gov/Wildlife>. Where wildlife biology and damage management methods are offered by species.

## **East District**

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Elko plane responded to a call from a sheep and cattle rancher in northwestern Elko County. The rancher has had a history of very high lamb and calf loss to coyotes and was seeing several coyotes near his livestock. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 5 coyotes. The rancher was very pleased with the help. Work will be on-going as needed.

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the East District Supervisor (DS) confirmed the loss of 8 lambs, valued at more than \$1,600, to coyote predation. The damage took place on a band of sheep in southern White Pine County. The DS used traps and calling to remove 2 coyotes that were causing the problem. The DS also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in northwest Lincoln County. Earlier a Wildlife Specialist (WS) had confirmed the loss of 3 calves, several chickens and domestic geese to coyote predation. The value of the loss was placed at over \$2,300. With the assistance of the Ely plane, 4 coyotes were removed. The WS also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



During the week of July 6<sup>th</sup>, a WS from the East District confirmed the loss of 3 lambs, valued at \$600, to coyote predation. The predation occurred on a remote band of sheep in central White Pine County. The WS used traps and his well-trained coyote decoy dogs to remove the depredating coyotes. No further losses have been reported. The WS also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to prevent future losses.

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, a Nevada Department of Agriculture Field Assistant (FA) confirmed the loss of 1 lamb, valued at \$200, to coyote predation. The damage happened on a band of sheep in northwestern White Pine County. The FA used traps to remove 4 coyotes near the kill bringing an end to the losses. The FA also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, the Elko plane responded to calls from 2 cattle ranchers in Lander County. Both ranchers have had very high predation losses in the past. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 6 coyotes. Work will continue as needed.

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a call from a rancher in western White Pine County. The rancher had lost at least 39 lambs, valued at \$7,800, to coyote predation. With the assistance of an East District WS as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 3 coyotes near the location of the kills. A necropsy of 2 of the coyotes revealed lamb and wool in their stomachs. Technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations was also provided to the rancher.

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, the Elko plane responded to a call from 2 cattle ranchers in northern Elko County. Both ranchers have had calf losses due to coyote predation in the past and reported seeing several coyotes near their young calves. During the flight, the plane was able to locate and remove 4 coyotes.



Work will be ongoing as needed.

During the week of July 27<sup>th</sup>, the newly minted Wildlife Services-Nevada State Director (SD) traveled to the East District for a weeklong fact-finding mission. The SD met with almost all the East District employees as well as some major cooperators. He also helped with several field operations including working with both the Ely and Elko planes.

On July 28<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>, crew member training was provided to 5 Nevada crew members at the East District Office in Ely, Nevada. Training consisted of classroom instruction, actual shooting at the range and then ground crew/gunning with the Ely plane. Crew member training is required annually for all crew members.

During the month of July, a WS assigned to work in northwestern White Pine County and southern Elko County confirmed the loss of at least 8 lambs, valued at \$1,600, to coyote predation. The WS used decoy dogs and calling to remove 4 coyotes near the kills. Work will continue as needed.

### **West District**

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the West DS and a FA investigated a ranch in Douglas County that had reported the loss of 12 sheep, valued at \$1,800, with 3 other sheep severely injured. A necropsy revealed that a lion was responsible for the damage. In response, a large cage trap, 2 foothold traps and 3 trail snares were placed around the kill site. The employees then brought the rancher out to show him where the equipment was placed, when a large male lion came running towards them. Fortunately, the lion ran through the trail snare and was immediately captured, ending the damage. The rancher was extremely pleased with the efforts of the DS and FA.

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, the West DS and 2 WS airport personnel conducted a prey-base reduction project at a joint-use aviation facility in Washoe County. By removing the California ground squirrels from on and around the airfield operating area and arrival/departure zones, the employees reduce the occurrence and abundance of avian and mammalian predators, thereby protecting aviation safety and aircraft. A follow up revealed that the project was successful. Protection efforts will be on going.



During the month of July, a FA placed equipment around several goat ranches/dairies in Churchill County in response to the loss of 1 kid goat, valued at \$125, to coyotes. The effort resulted in the removal of 3 coyotes. The FA will continue to protect livestock in his work area.

During the week of July 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, a WS was called regarding the loss of 1 lamb, valued at \$60, to coyotes in Lander County. The lamb market has dropped drastically lately, and every lamb is worth even that much more to the sheep producers. The WS walked into the damage site and made sev-



eral calling stands, which resulted in the removal of 2 coyotes. No further livestock losses have been reported and the WS will continue protecting livestock.

During the month of July, a WS placed and maintained trail snares around translocated California bighorn sheep (California BHS) in Washoe County as part of a Nevada Department of Wildlife project (NDOW project 22-01). The objective of the project is to remove lion predation from the California BHS population so that it becomes viable. On July 30<sup>th</sup>, the WS removed an adult male lion near the wild sheep population with the use of a trail snare. The WS will continue to protect California BHS in the project area.



On July 27<sup>th</sup>, a sheep and goat producer from Lyon County reported the loss of 2 goats, valued at \$190. A FA evaluated the kills and determined that coyotes were responsible. In response, the FA placed foothold traps near the kills resulting in the removal of 2 coyotes. No further losses have been reported.

Flying efforts have been hampered during the reporting period by very hot temperatures. As this is typically a slow time, the pilot and crew member recertify their training requirements, work on equipment and take annual leave to ready for the upcoming fall calving season.

During the month of July, a WB performed wildlife damage management duties at a military aviation facility in southern Nevada. The WB dispersed 163 birds from the active airfield, consisting of mourning doves, horned larks and common ravens. Additionally, 24 mourning doves, 5 killdeer, 4 horned larks, 5 black-tailed jack rabbits, and 6 desert cotton tailed rabbits were removed because they either wouldn't respond to non-lethal measures, or were attractants to avian and mammalian predators. A coyote that was seen on the airfield was removed with the use of foothold traps to protect aviation safety and military property. The WB continues to conduct surveys and protect the airfield from the threat of wildlife.

## **New and Developing Methods**

Nothing to Report

## **Valuing and investing in Employees**

Nothing to Report

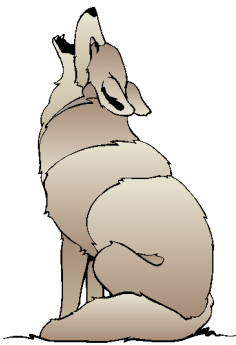
## **Information and Communication**

Nothing to Report

**Future Meeting and Events**

Nothing to Report

USDA-APHIS-WS-NV  
8775 Technology Way  
Reno NV 89521



**USDA APHIS**

